

eSecurity News—Back to School

Preparing Our Children to be Good Cyber Citizens



As the school year starts, it's a good time to focus attention on technology used by our kids.

Technology for education, fun and staying in touch with friends is commonplace. Parents and caregivers can ensure young people are using the internet appropriately, helping them develop good habits and skills to stay safe online.

Staysafeonline.org offers parents resources to teach good digital citizenship. Among the best safety tips are:

- ➔ Remain positively engaged and know what your kids are doing online.
- ➔ Keep a clean machine, with good security protection.
- ➔ Use your Internet provider's tools and review social networking privacy settings to manage your child's online experience.
- ➔ Teach critical thinking, explaining the implications of actions such as downloading files or sharing personal information.
- ➔ Empower children to handle age appropriate decisions; realize your kids access the Internet in places other than home.

Resources

Kids Health: [School and Family Life](#); [Cyberbullying](#), [Sexting](#), and [Internet Safety](#)

FBI Kids: [Safe Online Surfing \(SOS\)](#) (3rd—8th grade)

uKnowKids: [10 Things Parent Need to Know About Xbox Live and Kids Safety](#) and [Digital Parenting is Important for Teens, Whether They Like it Or Not](#)

Consider using parental controls such as uKnowKids.com.

Protect Personal Information

Kids may know more about technology, but they still may lack the mature judgment to make wise decisions.

The FBI cautions that kids whose Internet activity isn't monitored are at risk for being exploited. Seemingly insignificant information, shared with the wrong person, can pose a danger when shared on the internet. Teach your children what personal information is and that it should not be shared online.

Pedophiles often pose as teenagers online. Children should understand the dangers of sharing contact information with strangers. Teach them that calling a person is the same as giving that person their phone number because of caller ID. Sadly, there's no way a person can prove that they are who they say they are, so the safest option is to never share personal contact information.

Cyber Bullying



Cyber bullying is a huge issue worldwide. Children used to only worry about being picked on face-to-face, at school or in their communities. Now they may be victims of bullying through text or instant messages, social media, in gaming communities, and

more.

Cyber bullying is illegal in Delaware. Encourage kids to report it to a responsible adult immediately; digital copies of the incident are a great way to notify school officials or authorities if necessary. Schools have taken a strong stand to address cyber bullying, with educational programs that teach kids how to identify it, and what to do if it happens to them or a friend.